



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913

PH (517) 373.1801 | FAX (517) 373.5801

www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/hardiman/

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Contact: Alan Bolter
517-373-1801

Senate panel recommends Hardiman's mobile-phone privacy bill

LANSING — Michigan residents would have greater protection in keeping their mobile-phone contact information private under legislation recommended by a Senate committee this week.

The Senate Technology and Energy Committee approved a bill sponsored by Sen. Bill Hardiman, R-Kentwood. Senate Bill 127 would require that mobile-phone service providers receive written consent from their subscribers before listing them in a nationwide directory. Major mobile-phone service providers have discussed creating a directory of the more than 180 million cell-phone users.

Consumers have complained about creating such a directory because they don't want their numbers published and possibly used for telemarketing. Unknowingly, some mobile-phone users have consented to have their numbers included in a directory because their contracts include fine print that would include their number.

"Cell phone users should have the option to keep their contact information private," Hardiman said. "I thank committee members for listening to consumers and supporting this legislation."

The legislation now heads to the full Senate for consideration and could be taken up as soon as next week.

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